

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 019017
ORIGIN SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 /028 R

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-----280748Z 078125 /11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019017

CAIRO FOR RSO; ATHENS FOR OIC/TSO; CASABLANCA,

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: AUTO ARMOR MATERIALS

FRANKFURT FOR OIC/RTC FROM A/SY/OPS/T

REF: (A) STATE 5113; (B) ATHENS 310; (C) CAIRO 672;
(D) CASABLANCA 58; (E) CA-7405 DATED 11 DECEMBER 1975

1. DOUBLE THICKNESS OF AUTO BALLISTIC ALUMINUM WILL NOT
GUARANTEE THE DEFEAT OF SOME PROJECTILES. ALSO THIS CON-
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FIGURATION WILL HAVE A MYRIAD OF JOINTS WHERE PROJECTILE
PENETRATION WOULD BE PROBABLE. FULLY REALIZE CURRENT SIT-
UATION AND THAT THE IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY OF ALUMINUM
WOULD BE OF SOME BENEFIT IN THE EVENT OF ATTACK. THERE IS
NO AVAILABLE DATA FOR DEFEAT OF EXPLOSIVE FRAGMENTATION DE-
VICES.

2. RECOMMEND THAT FOLLOWING STEPS BE CONSIDERED PRIOR TO ARMOR SELECTION:

- A. DETERMINE CALIBER/WEAPON TO BE DEFEATED
- B. RESEARCH LOCAL ECONOMY TO LOCATE AND FIELD TEST AVAILABLE CANDIDATE MATERIALS
- C. UTILIZE REF. (E) FOR FURTHER INFO.

3. ALUMINUM UTILIZED AS AUTO ARMOR BECAUSE OF WEIGHT CONSIDERATIONS. STATIC ARMOR INSTALLATIONS CAN USE HEAVIER MATERIALS AS WEIGHT IS NOT PRINCIPAL CONCERN. AUTO ALUMINUM IS USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH "OUTER STEEL SKIN" TO DEFEAT 9MM HAND GUN, SUBMACHINE GUN AND LESSER BALLISTIC THREATS. IN ORDER TO DEFEAT MOST COMMON, NON-EXPLOSIVE PROJECTILES, A HARD OUTER SURFACE (IMPACT SIDE) IS NEEDED TO BEGIN INITIAL DEFEAT. A MORE ABSORBENT OR SOFTER BALLISTIC MATERIAL, USED AS A BACKING, IS NEEDED TO ABSORB REMAINING ENERGY AND TO EFFECT A COMPLETE DEFEAT. THERE ARE NUMEROUS CONFIGURATIONS THAT CAN BE APPLIED USING A VARIETY OF COMMON MATERIALS. FIELD TESTING OF LOCAL MATERIALS IS ENCOURAGED.

4. RECOMMEND RSO USE BEST JUDGEMENT BASED ON ABOVE INFO AND REF (E). USE OF AUTO ALUMINUM SHOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED TEMPORARY IN VIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION. PLANS SHOULD BE FORMULATED ON POST FOR PERMANENT SOLUTION. VANCE

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